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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 14, 2008. Claims 14-26 were pending in this application, with claims 1-13 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, new claims 27-29 have been added. Accordingly, claims 14-29 are now pending, with claims 14, 19 and 22 being in independent form.

Claims 14-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,922,255 to Tomida in view of Watanabe (US 2002/0122215 A1).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 14, 19 and 22 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Tomida, as understood by applicant and as previously discussed in the record, proposes an Internet facsimile device wherein e-mail data is transmitted along with a header including a title selected by a user using the facsimile device. In the Internet facsimile device proposed by Tomida, any of plural one-touch keys can be associated with a corresponding title, and the user can designate the title by depressing one of the one-touch keys.

However, Tomida, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, does not disclose or suggest determining whether a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus, has been specified, and registering for each of a plurality of registered user codes, corresponding subject names associated with the registered user code.

It is contended in the Office Action that there are two examples in Tomida of titles (equated in the Office Action with subject names) being determined to be used. However, in each instance, the title is **NOT** registered for a specific user code, specific to a current operator

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**and differentiating the current operator from other operators.**

Tomida, column 8, lines 25-57 (reproduced below), merely describes an example in which a title is extracted from enlarged character arrays on a first page of the original document:

Next, a facsimile transmission process according to a second embodiment of the present invention will be described while referring to the flowchart shown in FIG. 9. The process is started when the user inputs an instruction to transmit a facsimile via the internet 31 by operating the operation panel 55.

First in S710, the user specifies an e-mail address of a receiving party by either in the direct input method or one-touch input method described above. Next, in S720, the user is prompted to set the original document, and in S730, the scanner 47 reads an image from the original document. At this time, *enlarged character arrays on a first page of the original document are recognized*, in S740, by an OCR function. Then, in S750, the *character arrays are extracted as a title of the facsimile*. The image data read from the original document is, in S760, encoded by the encoder 49 into G3 compressed image data. The G3 compressed image data is converted, in S770, by the mail controller 65 into a text coded image data, that is, e-mail data, capable of being transmitted via the internet 31. In S780, the title which has been automatically extracted in S750 is also sent to the mail controller 65, and a header is created. The header includes the title, the e-mail address of the selected receiving party, data on the sending party, and data necessary for performing print output or displaying the data in a viewer. After the header is attached to the e-mail data, the e-mail data is sent to the LAN controller 67 and, in S790, transmitted to the internet 31 via the LAN 2 and the network router 6.

According to the above-described second embodiment, because a title is automatically extracted from an original document, a sending party does not need to input a title, thereby minimizing operations placed on a user.

Thus, while a title is automatically extracted from the facsimile document, such title is specific to the facsimile document, and is NOT specific to the current operator. Stated another way, the same title would be extracted for any of a plurality of operators working with the facsimile document.

Further, although the title is extracted and included in the header attached to the mail data in the approach proposed by Tomida, there is no registration of the title with any *specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other*

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operators.

Contrary to the contention in the Office Action, the one-touch key of Tomida is **NOT** a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators. The one-touch keys are not specific to any users. That is, any user can use any one-touch key to invoke the same function that is applied regardless of who presses that one-touch key.

Although a user can select a title to be associated with a one-touch key, such association of title with one-touch key is **NOT** specific to a current operator and does **NOT** differentiate the current operator from other operators. Stated another way, after the title is associated with the one-touch key, any operator can operate the one-touch key to specify the associated title.

Further, it is noted that no more than one title can be associated with a one-touch key in the approach proposed by Tomida. As pointed out in Tomida, if a title is already associated with a one-touch, if a new title is registered for the one-touch key, the new title overwrites the old title, without the option for associating both the old title and the new title with the one-touch key.

Accordingly, when the one-touch key is operated, only the registered title can be determined and therefore the apparatus of Tomida does **NOT** automatically determine a subject name from among the subject names (that is, from plural names) registered for the specific user code of the current operator.

On the other hand, in the claimed subject matter, one or more subject names can be registered for a user code.

Tomida, column 8, lines 58 through column 9, line 31 (reproduced below), merely describes an example in which if the user does not specify a title (either by direct entry or one-touch input), a title is automatically selected by the system from plural default titles.

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Again such default titles are not registered to a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators. That is, the same default titles are available to each operator.

Watanabe, already discussed at length in the record, does not cure such deficiencies of Tomida.

Watanabe, as understood by Applicant, proposes a facsimile apparatus wherein one or more items of account information can be registered in an internal memory of the facsimile apparatus, and one of these items of account information is selected for use in authentication processing. For example, a user may be required to specify a user name and password before the user can use the facsimile apparatus.

However, neither Watanabe nor Tomida says anything whatsoever about using user identity or identification to select a title or subject name for a transmission specified by the user to be transmitted.

Tomida and Watanabe simply do not disclose or suggest determining whether a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus, has been specified, registering for each of a plurality of registered user codes, corresponding subject names associated with the registered user code, and automatically determining a subject name from among the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator and registered in the subject name registration part, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted. Such features increase the operational latitude of a user, and are simply NOT obvious from the cited art.

Accordingly, applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with

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common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does **NOT** render unpatentable the subject matter of independent claims 14 and 22 of the present application.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 14 and 22, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In another aspect of the present application (independent claim 19), (a) it is determined whether a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus, has been specified, (b) it is determined whether a mail address is registered for the specific user code of the current operator, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified, and (c) another subject name is automatically specified, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code.

As discussed at length above, as well as elsewhere in the record, the use of one-touch keys in Tomida, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, does **NOT** involve a *specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus, has been specified.*

Although the one-touch keys of Tomida can be associated with e-mail addresses (to which mail can be sent), such association is NOT specific to the current operator and is available to any operator.

Further, although the operator can specify a destination address by operating a one-touch key, such one-touch address key is NOT associated with any titles and the operator must depress a second one-touch key or otherwise specify the title to be included.

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Accordingly, Tomida of course does not disclose or suggest features (a) through (c) of independent claim 19 of the present application.

Further, Watanabe, while proposing use of user authentication, does disclose features (b) and (c). As mentioned above, as well as elsewhere in the record, Watanabe says nothing whatsoever about using user identity or identification to select a destination address and a title for a transmission specified by the user to be transmitted.

Accordingly, applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does **NOT** render unpatentable the subject matter of independent claim 19 of the present application.

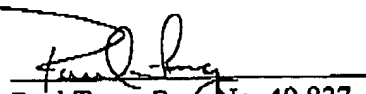
Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 19 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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